

#31a
K. Cager
5-7-00

503.30414C14

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): KATO, et al.

Filed: December 16, 1999

For: VACUUM PROCESSING APPARATUS AND OPERATING
METHOD THEREFOR

Group:

Examiner:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

December 16, 1999

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application, prior to
examination thereof, as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, delete lines 1-8 in their entirety, and
substitute therefor the following:

--This application is a Continuation application of
application Serial No. 09/177,495, filed October 23, 1998,
which is a Continuation application of application Serial No.
09/061,062, filed April 16, 1998, ^{now U.S. Pat. No. 5950330} which is a Continuation
application of application Serial No. 08/882,731, filed June
26, 1997, ^{now U.S. Pat. No. 5784719} which is a Divisional application of application
Serial No. 08/593,870, filed January 30, 1996, ^{now U.S. Pat. No. 5661413} which is a
Continuing application of application Serial No. 08/443,039,